

Fast Facts

New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

- 89 employers are already on New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM list.
- The 131,000 commuters covered by current New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM will help reduce 61,300 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, the equivalent of planting 13.5 million trees each year.
- The 2004 list is still being developed. Deadline for enrolling online at <www.bwc.gov> is July 13, 2004. The final list will be announced to the media in August 2004.

Local Commuting

- More than 3 million people commute each day in Massachusetts, and more than 73 percent of them drive to work alone. (*Census 2000 Supplementary Survey*)
- The table below highlights the costs of congestion and gallons of wasted fuel in New England's major metropolitan areas. (*Texas Transportation Institute*)

<i>Metro Region</i>	Cost of Traffic Congestion	Congestion Cost per Commuter	Gallons of Wasted Fuel
Boston, MA	\$1.7 billion	\$560	139 million
Hartford, CT	\$145 million	\$225	12 million
Providence, RI	\$385 million	\$415	31 million

- The average Boston peak commuter spends 58 hours stuck in gridlock each year; the average Providence peak commuter spends 39 hours; and the average Hartford peak commuter spends 20 hours each year in traffic. (*Texas Transportation Institute*)
- The average Boston household spends more on transportation – 20% of its income – than it does on food. Only shelter is allocated a higher percentage of household income than transportation. (*Surface Transportation Policy Project, 2000*)
- Car insurance costs the average Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island driver \$946, \$871, and \$825, respectively. These three states rank among the country's top ten with the highest average annual car insurance rates (*Insurance Information Institute, 2000*)



New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Alliance for Climate Action 10% Challenge • Association for Commuter Transportation Patriot Chapter
GO MAINE Commuter Program • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs • MassRIDES
Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management • Rhode Island Public Transit Authority • Rideworks
The Rideshare Company • Upper Valley Rideshare • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Health

- Exposure to elevated ozone levels can cause serious breathing problems and aggravate asthma and other pre-existing lung diseases. Asthma rates in New England are significantly higher than in the rest of the country, and all six of the New England states have childhood asthma rates above 10 percent. (*New England Asthma Regional Council*)
- Research conducted in 1999 by the Centers for Disease Control found that “obesity and overweight are linked to the nation’s number one killer—heart disease—as well as diabetes and other chronic conditions.” The report also states that one reason for Americans’ sedentary lifestyle is that “walking and cycling have been replaced by automobile travel for all but the shortest distances.” (*October 27, 1999 issue of the JAMA*)
- Walking to work gives you a 20 percent less chance of getting breast cancer, a 30 percent less chance of getting heart disease, a 50 percent less chance of diabetes, and would help you live longer and healthier into old age. (*Nurse’s Health Study, Archives of Internal Medicine; New England Journal of Medicine*)
- About 60 percent of Americans lead completely sedentary lifestyles, and 40 percent are clinically overweight. (*1998 report of the American Medical Association*)

Air Quality

- Motor vehicles, including cars trucks and off-road vehicles, contribute more than one-half of New England’s ozone-forming pollutants. Cars and trucks also emit particulate matter, air toxics, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide. (*U.S. EPA Region 1*)
- For 20 to 40 days per year, air pollution levels in New England typically violate state and federal health standards. (*U.S. EPA Region 1*)

National Commuting

- Nearly 50 percent of workers describe their commutes as unsatisfying or stressful, and 36 percent say they would be willing to take a 10 percent pay cut or more for a shorter commute. (*HR Magazine Survey, Oct. 2001*)
- Employees with commuter benefits are 8 times more likely to use transit than those who don’t have them. (*2001 Xylo Survey*)
- The average annual delay per traveler in 75 urban areas climbed to 26 hours in 2001 from 7 hours in 1982. The total cost of congestion in 2001 came to \$69.5 billion. This is the value of 3.5 billion hours of delay and 5.7 billion gallons of excess fuel consumed. The additional cost of lost worker productivity is not included. (*Texas Transportation Institute*)

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